PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method for a CDMA communication system, comprising:

measuring downlink time offset experienced at a mobile station between downlink transmissions from base stations;

communicating said measured time offset from said mobile station to at least one of said base stations;

determining a downlink data frame time offset based on said measured time offset, wherein said downlink data frame time offset is in a multiple of predetermined number of chips;

communicating said downlink data frame time offset information to said mobile station.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for a CDMA communication system, comprising:

measuring downlink time offset experienced at a mobile station between downlink transmissions from base stations;

communicating said measured time offset from said mobile station to at least one of said base stations;

determining a downlink data frame time offset based on said measured time offset, wherein said downlink data frame time offset is in a multiple of predetermined number of chips;

communicating said downlink data frame time offset information to said mobile station, ~~The method as recited in claim 12~~ wherein said communicating said downlink data frame time offset information is by way of communicating an Active Set Update message.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 12 wherein said communicating said measured time offset is by way of communicating a measurement report message from said mobile station.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising:

adjusting timing of a time offset adjuster in said mobile station for adjusting data symbol timing according to said downlink data frame time offset information and for identifying corresponding data symbols for a soft combining operation.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 15 further comprising soft combining said corresponding data symbols.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for a CDMA communication system, comprising:

a transceiver coupled with a controller at a mobile station for:

measuring downlink time offset experienced at said mobile station between downlink transmissions from base stations, and

communicating said measured time offset from said mobile station to at least one of said base stations;

a transceiver coupled with a controller at said least one of said base stations for:

determining a downlink data frame time offset based on said measured time offset, wherein said downlink data frame time offset is in a multiple of predetermined number of chips, and

communicating said downlink data frame time offset information to said mobile station.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 17 wherein said transceiver coupled with said controller at said least one of said base stations further for

communicating said downlink data frame time offset information by way of communicating an Active Set Update message.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 17 wherein said transceiver coupled with said controller at said mobile station further for communicating said measured time offset by way of communicating a measurement report message from said mobile station.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 17 wherein said transceiver coupled with said controller at said mobile station further for adjusting timing of a time offset adjuster in said mobile station for adjusting data symbol timing according to said downlink data frame time offset information and for identifying corresponding data symbols for a soft combining operation.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein said transceiver coupled with said controller at said mobile station further for soft combining said corresponding data symbols.

22. (New) A mobile station for a wireless communication system, the mobile station comprising:

a controller configured to measure a downlink time offset experienced at the mobile station between downlink transmissions from at least two base stations; and

a transceiver coupled to the controller, the transceiver configured to:

communicate the measured downlink time offset to at least one of the at least two base stations; and

receive a downlink data frame time offset information based on the communicated measured downlink time offset, wherein the downlink data frame time offset information includes at least two downlink data frame time offsets associated with downlink signals from the at least two base stations.

23. (New) The mobile station of claim 22, wherein the downlink data frame time offset information is included in an Active Set Update message.

24. (New) The mobile station of claim 23, further comprising:

a time offset adjuster for adjusting data symbol timing according to the downlink data frame time offset information and for identifying corresponding data symbols for a soft combining operation.